during the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister, India and China launched 'India-China Year of Friendship Through Tourism.' A joint logo and a monthly Action Plan till January 2008 were released on this occasion. Both countries have agreed to open tourism offices within this year. Based on the Consular Convention signed in 1991, Government have been reviewing and modifying guidelines for grant of visas to Chinese nationals to facilitate their travel to India for business, tourism and education.

Indians detected in Pakistani jails

*78. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indians visited Pakistan early this year and were allowed by Pakistan Government to visit certain jails in that country in search of their kin who were expected to have been languishing in Pak jails after 1965 and 1971 wars or otherwise strayed into that country without proper documents;

(b) if so, the number of Indians detected in Pakistani jails; and

(c) the action taken so far by Indian Government for their release and repatriation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Subsequent to the agreement reached during my visit to Islamabad in January 2007, a group comprising thirteen members of the families of missing defence personnel visited Pakistan from June 1.14.2007. They visited ten jails in Pakistan. Indian prisoners in the above prisons were presented before the relatives. No missing Defence personnel were located. However, it was confirmed that one of the missing personnel had been killed in action and not taken Prisoner of War.

Pruning of Centrally sponsored schemes

*79. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission's move to drastically prune Centrally sponsored schemes from 155 to just 24 and transfer of a bulk of the schemes to States has not been approved by Government.;

(b) whether Planning Commission has decided to take a comprehensive look into all the 300-plus Centrally sponsored schemes and see that some non-performing ones could be weeded out and some other merged with similar schemes to address the issue of funds for the social sector programmes; and

(c) whether Commission has taken a decision to provide funds to all the schemes during the Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Plan Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise and rationalization of Schemes during the course of a Plan. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and